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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MICHAEL DÖRR *ET AL.*)
S)
S SERIAL NO. TO BE ASSIGNED) ART UNIT: TO BE ASSIGNED
F)
F FILED: HEREWITH) EXAMINER: TO BE ASSIGNED
R)
R FOR: RECORDING MATERIAL HAVING A)
R NEGATIVE-WORKING, RADIATION-)
R SENSITIVE LAYER WHICH COMPRISES)
R ADDITIVES FOR PROMOTING)
R DEVELOPABILITY)
R)

Asst. Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

"EXPRESS MAIL" No. ET 284672105 US DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to fee calculation and examination please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims

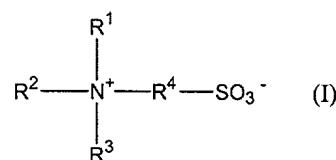
Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add the following new claim(s).

--16. A recording material which comprises a dimensionally stable, two-dimensional support and a negative-working, radiation-sensitive layer which comprises a diazonium salt and a polymeric binder, the layer comprises a sulphobetaine.

17. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the radiation-sensitive layer comprises a combination of a polymerizable monomer or oligomer and a photopolymerization initiator.
18. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the sulphobetaine is of the formula

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in which

R^1 to R^3 are identical or different and are substituted or unsubstituted and/or mono- or polyunsaturated, acyclic or isocyclic hydrocarbon radicals having from 1 to 16 carbon atoms, in which one or more methylene groups is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, -NH-, -CO-NH- and/or -O-CO-NH-groups, and, in the case of the acyclic radicals, each two thereof is optionally linked to one another to form a saturated or unsaturated ring, and

R^4 is a substituted or unsubstituted ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$) alkanediyl group.

19. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the radicals R^1 to R^3 is a methyl radical.
20. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein two of the radicals R^1 to R^3 are linked to one another with formation of a five- to seven-membered ring.
21. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the radical R^4 is a substituted or unsubstituted ethane-1,2-diyl, propane-1,3-diyl or butane-1,4-diyl radical.
22. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of the sulphobetaine is from 1 to 15% by weight, based on the total weight of the non-volatile constituents of the radiation-sensitive layer.
23. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the radiation-sensitive layer has been colored using dyes and/or pigments.

24. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the diazonium salt is a condensation product of an aromatic diazonium salt.

25. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the weight of the radiation-sensitive layer when dried is from 0.3 to 3.0 g/m².

26. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the material is pigmented or matted.

27. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the support is a plate, a film, a foil or a band of metal, plastic or a plastic/metal laminate.

28. The recording material according to claim 27, wherein the support is an aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and at least one side of the support has been mechanically, chemically and/or electrochemically roughened, and optionally anodically oxidized and/or chemically aftertreated.

29. The recording material according to claim 16, wherein the support has been provided with a back coating of polymeric materials.

30. A process for the production of a printing plate for offset printing, which comprises exposing imagewise the recording material according to claim 16, and subsequently developing using an aqueous-alkaline developer.

31. The recording material according to claim 20, wherein two of the radicals R¹ to R⁴ are linked to one another to form a morpholinium ring or a pyridinium ring.

32. The recording material according to claim 21, wherein the proportion of the sulphobetaine is from 2 to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the non-volatile constituents of the radiation-sensitive layer.

33. The recording material according to claim 32, wherein the weight of the radiation-sensitive layer when dried is from 0.5 to 2.0 g/m².

34. The recording material according to claim 32, wherein the weight of the radiation-sensitive layer when dried is from 0.6 to 1.6 g/m². - -

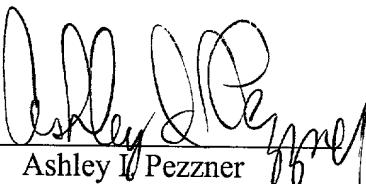
REMARKS

The applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment be entered prior to fee calculation and examination. The applicants have rewritten claims 1-15 in the proper U.S. form as newly added claims 16-34. No additional fee is required for the claims. The application contains 1 independent claim (claim 16) and 19 total claims, claims 16-34. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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